

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2157**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Appropriates \$12 million in constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Jersey City Reservoir property for recreation and conservation and historic preservation purposes.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



## 2

7       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
8       *of New Jersey:*

21       (2) The following project is eligible for funding with the  
22       moneys appropriated pursuant to this section:

24

c. As used in this section, “develop,” “historic preservation purposes,” and “recreation and conservation purposes” mean the same as those terms are defined in section 3 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-3).

34

## 37

38 This bill would appropriate \$12,000,000 to the Department of  
39 Environmental Protection to provide a grant to Jersey City to  
40 develop the Jersey City Reservoir site, which is owned by the city,  
41 for recreation and conservation and historic preservation purposes.

1 These funds are appropriated from corporation business tax  
2 revenues dedicated to recreation and conservation, farmland  
3 preservation, and historic preservation purposes pursuant to  
4 subparagraph (a) of Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State  
5 Constitution.

6 The project to be funded by this bill consists of the preservation,  
7 restoration, and revitalization of the historic Jersey City Reservoir  
8 in Hudson County for recreation and conservation and historic  
9 preservation purposes. Originally built in 1871 – 1874, the  
10 reservoir is currently a beautiful lake in the center of the Heights  
11 section of Jersey City. Since being discontinued as a source of  
12 drinking water, the area has been reclaimed by nature. Closed in  
13 with high stone walls, this “hidden jewel” is a stunning example of  
14 wildlife in this very urban area, with great blue herons, swallows,  
15 peregrine falcons, and numerous other birds using the area.  
16 Wildflower meadows, oak, cherry, apple, and birch trees, and  
17 emerging wetlands surround a large lake at this peaceful 14-acre  
18 site. The circa 1874 Egyptian Revival walls and Romanesque  
19 pump-houses are of major historic significance to Jersey City and  
20 the region.

21 In 2012, the “Jersey City Reservoir 2 and 3 Complex” was listed  
22 in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. The  
23 funding provided by this bill would be used to preserve, develop,  
24 and maintain the reservoir as an historic site and public urban park  
25 for passive recreation. It would be also used to preserve the stone  
26 walls and related structures of “Reservoir #3,” and establish the  
27 site, bounded by Central, Jefferson, and Summit Avenues, and  
28 Pershing Field Park, as a public historic and nature park, botanical  
29 sanctuary, and wildlife habitat. The funding will further protect the  
30 lake, woods, meadows, and the entire reservoir site from new  
31 building construction and any use inconsistent with a passive  
32 recreation park.

33 Originally started in 2002 by a group of concerned citizens, the  
34 Jersey City Reservoir Preservation Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
35 organization, has been working to protect and preserve the Jersey  
36 City Reservoir site, and secure public and private support for  
37 developing and maintaining the property as an historic and passive  
38 recreation site.